

## TABLE DOES STUNTS BEFORE CYNIC'S EYES

Times Newspapermen Take Part in Demonstration of Levitation.

## FURNITURE OBEYS OPERATOR'S ORDERS

Gyrations Performed and Questions Answered at Commands of Student of Columbia.

"Rise, table, rise, please." This command came in firm, quick tones from a young man, who had told a group of cynical newspaper men that Eusebia Palladino had nothing on him in the art of table levitation.

Strange as it may seem, the table did rise, two of its legs lifting clear off the floor by a foot, and later three of its legs standing high in the air.

It was done in a large room on the tenth floor of the Munsey Building at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, without any of the paraphernalia or accessories used by the ordinary spiritualistic performers.

The young man was Samuel Hershenstein, a second-year student in the Columbia Law School, of New York, who is in Washington at the Willard for a visit of two weeks. He is only twenty-two years of age and has studied table levitation for the past three years. He says he does not know what force controls the table. He has not even a theory as to why he can make the table count the number of bones on the hands resting on it or the number of derby hats in the room.

Newspapermen Skeptic. When he told a group of twenty Washington newspaper men that he could make a table rise from the floor, they laughed at him. He assembled nine men at the table with him. It was an ordinary light table. He made each man put his two hands on the table and press heavily upon it, he doing the same thing.

"At the end of fifteen minutes the table will begin," he said. When the minutes were up, he said: "Gentlemen, keep your hands on the table, but press very lightly." This was obeyed.

"Now, table," he said, "rise on two legs." After half a minute of suspense on the part of those who were at the table and those who were spectators, the table rose slowly, the two legs furthest from the young operator going a foot from the floor. At command, the table settled back into place.

"Now, table," said Mr. Hershenstein, "rise on that same side, please, and then rise on the opposite side—on the opposite side, table." Table did as ordered.

Table Counts. "Now, table," was the next command, "rise once for every ring on the hands resting on you." There were five rings, and the table rose and settled back nine times. There were fifteen derbies in the room, and Table counted them accurately.

At this point the operator removed his hands entirely from the table, and continued to control it as well as he had done with his hands on it. He had absolutely no contact with the table at all, and yet it rose and settled back as he commanded. At his order, it remained stationary in the air, with the weight of nine men's hands upon it.

Mr. Hershenstein did not attempt to make the table rise completely off the floor, but he did make it stand at an acute angle, with only one leg touching the floor.

There was no possible way of his using any tricks in his control of the table. The spectators were crowded around him, feeling his arms and hands to see that he exercised no muscular force while the table was in the air or on the floor, and watching every inch of space under the table to guard against trickery there.

Looked Quite Simple. The thing looked perfectly simple, but it was a feat which Eusebia Palladino and other mediums have advertised as being accomplished only by the spirits of the other world.

Mr. Hershenstein has never attended a spiritualistic seance and knows nothing about spiritualism. But he did the table levitation in a finished way, and when he left the room, the cynical newspaper men were convinced that table levitation was real. However, they're asking themselves yet what strange force it is that allows a man to control an inanimate object in that way.

Mr. Hershenstein lives in Jersey City. He first attracted attention with his table levitation when Palladino reached New York. He had made the boast that he could raise tables from the floor as she did. He made good then, as he did yesterday, on his promise to control Table.

**BOMB KILLS TWO RUSSIANS.** ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 22.—A bomb exploded in a terrorist lodging house in this city. Two persons were killed, and the police captured one man who was fleeing from the building.

**BROWN'S**  
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## NEWSPAPERMEN CONVINCED AT DEMONSTRATION



GROUP WITH TABLE RAISED AT OPERATOR'S COMMAND. CROSS SHOWS SPACE BETWEEN TABLE LEG AND FLOOR.



SAMUEL HERSHENSTEIN, OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, WHO EXERCISES STRANGE CONTROL.

## Friends of Cook Call for Proofs From Commander Peary; Dr. Egan Says Brooklynite Not Dishonest in His Claims

(Continued from First Page.)

that Cook thought he had accomplished what he said, but I believe that his scientific ability to know whether he was at the Pole is lacking.

**Women Loyal.**  
"The decision of the Danes, however, is final as far as scientists go, but the ladies of Denmark will never believe Cook was wrong, and my daughter, who is with me, will weep when she hears the report."

New York today is still gasping at the report of the Danish scientists, and the commonest form of salutation in Gotham today is "Good morning, what do you think of Cook now?"

Two men are still loyal to the Brooklyn "discoverer." They are his brother, a Brooklyn milk dealer, and Capt. R. S. Osborn, of the Explorers' Club, who declares he is sure Cook reached the Pole.

Gen. Thomas Hubbard, president of the Peary Arctic Club, and one of the staunchest adherents of Commander Peary in the early days of his controversy with Cook, today declared he did not accept the interpretation of H. Wellington Wack, Cook's attorney, that maybe Cook is insane.

General Hubbard declined to discuss the report of the Danish committee. Dr. Cook's whereabouts remain a mystery. His brother declares he is "abroad," intimating he is in Denmark.

**Will Be Beaten.**  
It is believed that Dr. Cook will be defeated for the vice presidency of the Arctic Club tonight. He is a candidate for re-election.

There is a rumor today that Cook will also be expelled from membership in the Explorers' Club, of which he is a former president. A committee from the club which has been investigating his claims is said to have recommended his expulsion.

John R. Bradley, the financial backer of Cook, is still "grinning and bearing it," he says, though he admits he is the object of much good-natured chaffing from his friends. "What's the use of crying?" he said today. "I got fooled like thousands of others."

Well-informed people today declare Cook made about \$100,000 before he left. He is said to have been paid \$38,000 for his "story" by a New York newspaper. The balance he made in his short lecture season.

**HISTORY'S REPLETE  
WITH FAKE STORIES**

By THOMAS S. RICE.  
Pretensions to discovery of new countries are not new, nor are they by any means uninteresting, but few of them have been as elaborate as that attributed to Dr. Cook.

The ancient Greeks were famous for traveling in their minds, and Herodotus, has been accused of being the best two-handed liar of them all in some respects, but Herodotus undoubtedly recounted much that was genuine, mixed with what he had been told.

One of the earliest writers in English was the champion travel faker for many years. He was Sir John Mandeville, or Maundeville, who was an assiduous reader of other travelers and turned out some of the wildest descriptions of things he never saw that could be imagined. Marco Polo, the Venetian, and many other travelers have related what they actually saw, then padded out their books with a lot of foolishness which they swallowed whole, but which they hardly be ranked in the class

with those who deliberately pretended to have explored hitherto unknown regions.

**Woman Gets Aboard.**  
The suffragettes may be pleased to know that one of the most astonishing frauds in the way of fake travelers was perpetrated by a woman who assumed the name of Caraboo. She bobbed up in Almondsbury, Gloucestershire, England, in the spring of 1817. Her story was that she was born at Java in the Indian ocean, was carried off by pirates and sold to the captain of a brig.

When near the coast of England she jumped overboard, swam ashore and wandered around until she was found by people who were willing to stand for the story and treat her well. She kept the game going for two months and attracted much attention, but suddenly disappeared when she heard that some non-university expert had learned that she was the daughter of a Devonshire cobbler. She is said to have come to America. Dr. Cook, please write.

**Macpherson's Poem.**  
A case of faking in which national pride came to the rescue of an impostor and supported him long while he was under fire was that of Macpherson, who in 1790 put over his poem Osean, which he claimed to have rescued in the original Gaelic from the Highlanders of Scotland and translated into English.

Like almost all of his class, Macpherson was somewhat of a real genius, and staked his critics for some years, but like a certain recent faker, he found it impossible to furnish the proper internal evidence. On the face of it Osean was clever as a poem, but the poet had overlooked among other facts that the language of great national classics handed down among an illiterate people by word of mouth from a distant age should contain numerous archaisms and such like delicate touches which denote the real thing.

Macpherson likewise made the mistake of writing a story telling about himself and his works and was tripped thereby. The controversy over Osean continued some fifty or sixty years, then died away with the general verdict that Macpherson was the author and not the translator of the poem.

**Shakespeare Fraud.**  
It has generally been forgotten that some of the wisest men of the eighteenth century in literature were stung by a series of spurious Shakespearean plays and relics.

The tricks were turned by Samuel William Henry Ireland who, with his father, claimed to have dug up the manuscript of the plays.

George went farther than Dr. Cook in the matter of preparing records. He invented a Formosan language and grammar, translated into it a number of sentences and short prayers, and also prepared a vocabulary for those who should happen to visit the island. He described the manners and customs of the Formosan natives most minutely, and Dr. Cook had nothing on him in the way of pictures, for George had his book illustrated with engravings of the houses, modes of traveling and shipping, specimens of the language and a lot of other miscellaneous misinformation. He strengthened this volume by publishing another entitled "A Dialogue Between a Japanese and a Formosan," which discussed current religious matters.

Later George became conscience-stricken and confessed he had never been anywhere near Formosa, and had invented every line of his remarkable productions, which had withstood a number of severe tests by scientists of assorted varieties.

When he died he left a strange will, in which he again admitted that he was an impostor, and said he was merely after the coin. His will was

with the Ara-Notch in place of the bothersome buttonhole 15c. each—2 for 25c.

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## COMMUTERS UNITE FOR LOWER FARES

Meeting Called at Alexandria to Consider Service and Schedules.

WASHINGTON TIMES BUREAU, ALEXANDRIA, VA., DEC. 22, 1909.  
Announcement is made that the Commuters' Protective Association, composed of passengers who travel over the Washington, Alexandria and Mt. Vernon railway, will be revived at an early date.

The object of calling the meeting, it is stated, is to get the railway company to maintain its schedule and a general improvement of service, including the cleanliness of its cars. Another important feature to be considered will be a reduction of fare. Commuters over the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church railway will be invited to participate in the meeting.

William H. Hodgkin died suddenly this morning at the Alexandria Hospital, following a short illness. Mr. Hodgkin was taken ill at the Columbia engine house early this morning and was taken to the hospital, where he died. He was a native of this city and was sixty-three years old. He was unmarried. For a number of years he lived at Falls Church. Mr. Hodgkin was also identified with the newspaper business for a number of years.

The funeral of Mrs. Johanna Sweeney, who died Sunday night last, took place at 9 o'clock this morning from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Rev. Father H. J. Cutler conducted the services. Those serving as bearers were John McKenna, Thomas F. Kelly, James Roche, Thomas Murphy, M. R. O'Sullivan, and William Whalen.

A venture of twenty talesters will be summoned shortly from one of the adjoining counties to secure a jury for the trial of Henry Smith, the negro who turned State's evidence in the Schultz murder trial, and who will be tried January 6 next.

Milton Franklin, a negro, was badly cut late yesterday afternoon by an unidentified negro while in a barber shop on the upper end of King street. Franklin had sixteen stitches taken in the wound, which extended across the throat. The man who wielded the razor escaped.

Harry McAbee, a negro, was in the police court today held for the action of the grand jury on a charge of bigamy. Rebecca Johnson, whom he married November 10, last, and who is alleged to be his second wife, was the complainant.

A business meeting of Fitzgerald County, of the New England Society of New York at its annual dinner in New Washington this morning on the 10 o'clock train for New York. He will return tomorrow.

In the corporation court today C. Randolph Davis qualified as a notary public.

## MOTHERS' CLUB WILL FIGHT EVIL

Mrs. S. M. Prescott Lectures Before Women on "The Protection of Girls."

The Mothers' Club of the District of Columbia is enlisted in the fight against the white slave traffic.  
"The Protection of Girls" was the subject of an address by Mrs. S. M. Prescott at a meeting of the club in the Washington Loan and Trust Company building yesterday afternoon. The speaker urged that the women of Washington unite in the fight against the evil which is the scourge of the city. An invitation to attend the meetings is issued by the club.

## Acceptable Xmas Gifts

**FUR SETS**  
Excellent articles, guaranteed to give entire satisfaction. Regular \$10.00 value. Holiday price, \$4.95.

**FUR COATS**  
Exceptionally fine garments, tailored to perfection, lined with silk—first class coats, the like of which you cannot duplicate anywhere in the city. Regular \$75 value. Holiday sale price, \$46.

Small Boys' Overcoats, \$5 and \$6 values  
for.....\$2.98

Boys' \$7 and \$8  
Suits now.....\$4.75  
Sizes from 4 to 16.

## Striking Reductions LADIES' SUITS

\$20 Suits for.....\$14.75  
\$25 Suits for.....\$19.75  
\$30 Suits for.....\$24.75  
\$35 and \$40 Suits for.....\$29.75

They come in worsteds and broad-crests, in all the latest styles. Regular price, \$30.00.

## Handsome Caracul Coats Greatly Reduced in Price

Beautiful and striking effects in many different styles. Regular price, \$30.00.

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**XMAS CANDY With All Children's Shoes.**

## HAHN'S GIFT FOOTWEAR

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From This Evening at 6—  
Till Tomorrow at Noon

We offer many desirable lines of Xmas Gift Footwear at deep-cut prices.

In spite of THE BUSIEST XMAS TRADE "HAHN'S" STORES HAVE EVER KNOWN, the assortments are still nearly complete—and our service is more prompt than it ever has been. Of course—you well know—that only "RELIABLE QUALITIES" can be found at our 3 houses.

### RELIABLE RUBBER BOOTS

Reduced from 6 P. M. this evening until Noon tomorrow, only—

### "STORM KING" BOOTS

Extra High Cut, buckles around top.  
Boys' sizes 3 to 6.....\$2.87  
Youths' sizes 11 to 12.....\$2.39  
Childs' sizes 6 to 10½.....\$1.69

### KNEE BOOTS—Warm Lined

Boys'.....\$2.45  
Youths'.....\$1.87  
Women's.....\$1.87  
Misses'.....\$1.59  
Childs'.....\$1.29

### Child's Xmas Leggings

Reduced Tonight and Tomorrow A. M.  
\$1.25 White or Red Jersey.....69c  
\$1.00 All Wool Black Jersey.....55c  
75c Astraghan, all colors.....45c  
50c Black Jersey or colors in Astraghan 35c

### Infants' "Jockey Boots"

Extra high cut Patent Leather Button Boots, with red, brown or champagne line kid tops—Patent leather cuff and tassel at top.  
Sizes 2 to 5 only. Were \$1.25 and \$2. Tonight and tomorrow.....\$1.49

### Warm Buckle Arctics

Reduced from 6 P. M. this evening until Noon tomorrow, only—

### WARM ARCTICS

The One-Buckle Kinds.

Men's \$1.50 kinds.....\$1.29  
Women's \$1.25 kinds.....\$1.12

### High "Beacon" Arctics

With 3 or 4 buckles—

Men's \$3 kinds.....\$2.65  
Women's \$2.50 kinds.....\$2.15  
Misses' \$2.00 kinds.....\$1.69  
Childs' \$1.95 kinds.....\$1.39

### STORM "ALASKAS"

Men's.....\$1.12 Women's.....85c

### Men's House Slippers

Reduced Tonight and Tomorrow A. M.

\$2.50 and \$3 Red or Brown Kid "Cavalier" Slippers.....\$1.95  
\$2.50 Brown Kid "FAUSTS".....\$1.79  
\$1.50 Wine Kid Opera Slippers.....\$1.19  
\$1.00 Leather Sole Bath Slippers.....87c

### Women's House Slippers

\$2 and \$2.50 Ribbon Trimmed Seamless \$1.69

Felt Slippers.....\$1.39  
\$1.25 grade, real fur trimmed Felt Julietts.....\$1.39  
\$1.00 Quality Fur Trimmed.....79c  
\$1 Leather Sole Bath Slippers or Knitted.....69c

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